

# PRESS ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Scott Vanhorne, (909) 387-4833

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### **Board Taps Special Road Fund for Live Oak Avenue Repaving**

**SAN BERNARDINO – Sept. 13, 2011** – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors tapped an \$8 million road improvement fund established in the 2011-12 budget to repave a portion of Live Oak Avenue in unincorporated Fontana.

“This is the first of many road improvement projects the County will be delivering to our communities this fiscal year because of the Board’s decision to set aside funding for necessary road maintenance,” San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said. “Road improvements and maintenance are essential functions of County government that directly impact our residents’ quality of life.”

The Board approved a \$686,686 contract with Laird Construction of Rancho Cucamonga to repave Live Oak between Valley Boulevard and Randall Avenue. Construction is scheduled to begin at the end of September, and work is expected to be completed by the end of October.

The project will be funded through the \$8 million Pavement Improvement Program the Board inserted into the 2011-12 budget to fund critical road maintenance and repair projects.

On Tuesday, the Board also approved plans and specifications to repave Valley Boulevard between Catawba and Banana avenues in Fontana. The project is a joint venture between the City of Fontana and the County of San Bernardino because the road traverses both County and City jurisdictions. The project is expected to cost \$2.5 million: \$1.9 City of Fontana and \$558,000 County of San Bernardino.

The County originally planned to fund the Valley Boulevard project with dollars from the San Sevine Redevelopment Area; however, the State’s decision to force local governments to pay for the right to have redevelopment areas and the ensuing lawsuits prompted a change. Now the project will be funded through the Pavement Improvement Program.

Construction on Valley Boulevard is expected to begin in December.

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### Forum Sheds Light on County Response to Prison Realignment

**RANCHO CUCAMONGA – Sept. 20, 2011** – Nearly 250 community stakeholders including public safety personnel, civic leaders, nonprofit representatives, and mental health professionals attended the Inmate Reintegration Forum hosted by San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford on Tuesday at the Rancho Cucamonga Community Center.

“I organized the forum to help educate our community about how the County is preparing to address the impacts of the State’s prison realignment plan and to dispel some of the misunderstandings about this sweeping change to our justice system,” Rutherford said.

The forum included presentations by District Attorney Mike Ramos, Sheriff Rod Hoops, Chief Probation Officer Michelle Scray, Behavioral Health Director Allan Rawland, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Director of Adult Institutions Terri McDonald, and CDCR Chief of External Affairs Erin Sasse.

Under California’s prison realignment legislation (Assembly Bill 109), low-level State prisoners who would normally be placed on parole and supervised by CDCR agents will instead be supervised by county probation officers. In addition, low-level offenders who violate their conditions of release will be sent to county jails rather than state prisons. A low-level offender is defined as someone convicted of a non-sexual, non-violent, or non-serious offense. The realignment legislation goes into effect on October 1. Contrary to popular belief, the legislation will not transfer State prisoners to county jails, and it does not mandate the early release of State prisoners.

“This is a huge change for the State of California and a challenge for San Bernardino County,” Chief Probation Officer Scray said. “However, we are confident that we can do a better job of providing both supervision and treatment services, ultimately reducing the State’s recidivism rate of 67 percent. We should see this challenge as an opportunity for a much-needed change.”

In response to realignment, San Bernardino County will establish three day reporting centers for people on probation to check in with their probation officers on a regular basis. The centers will also provide services such as drug counseling and work training referrals. The County will also partner with community-based organizations to provide services to offenders in remote areas. Officials anticipate about 5,500 to 6,500 additional offenders in the County’s probation system over the next three years because of realignment. About 100 new probation officers are being hired over the next several months to handle the new cases.

Forum speakers expressed concern about how the influx of new offenders into the probation system will impact communities while also expressing optimism about the County’s ability to work collaboratively with local nonprofit and faith-based organizations to help offenders turn their lives around.

“With the implementation of AB109, the number of criminal offenders housed and paroled in San Bernardino County will increase, and that is a real concern for all of us,” Sheriff Hoops said. “It is my responsibility to find alternatives to custody, while keeping public safety our top priority.”

Officials also talked about the importance of educating the public about the impacts of prison realignment.

“Maintaining an open dialogue with the community is going to be essential in the coming months as we attempt to deal with one of the biggest changes in public safety in decades,” District Attorney Ramos said. “I look forward to continuing to work as a team on this issue.”

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### Supervisors Move to Establish Campaign Contribution Limits

**SAN BERNARDINO – Sept. 27, 2011** – Today, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal from Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford and Vice-Chairman Brad Mitzelfelt to move toward limiting how much money special interest groups, corporations, and others can donate to candidates seeking election to County offices.

“Large campaign contributions give the impression that donors can have undue influence on elected officials, and limiting those contributions can help restore public trust in San Bernardino County government, which has been beset with political scandals,” Rutherford said.

The Board’s unanimous vote gave County staff the green light to draft rules to regulate how much can be donated to candidates seeking County offices, including the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor-Recorder, Auditor-Controller, and Superintendent of Schools. Supervisors directed staff to model the campaign finance limits after those in place for California Legislature candidates. The current limit is \$3,900 from a single source, including corporations, special interest groups, and individuals, per election cycle.

The Board also instructed staff to research how to enforce campaign finance regulations, including looking into the possibility of contracting with the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), which enforces the State’s campaign finance laws. Staff will also look into placing additional disclosure requirements on independent expenditure committees.

“Having an enforcement commission that is not appointed by elected officials in San Bernardino County provides a level of independence that is necessary,” Rutherford said. “The FPPC is credible, unbiased and has the necessary expertise to oversee the ethical implications of money in politics.”

The 2008-2009 San Bernardino County Grand Jury recommended establishing “reasonable” campaign contribution limits from individuals and groups to restore trust in County government and to create a level playing field in the local political arena. According to the Grand Jury’s report, Supervisors and other candidates for County offices received more than \$2.2 million in contributions each year between 2003 and 2008.

Earlier this year, Rutherford created an Ethics Advisory Working Group made up of former elected officials and local civic leaders to consider and recommend ways to improve ethical accountability in San Bernardino County government. The group agreed that the Board of Supervisors should consider implementing campaign finance rules.

“Listening to the group’s thoughtful discussions about the pros and cons of campaign finance rules helped convince me that it’s time to place a cap on political contributions in San Bernardino County,” Rutherford said.

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### **MAC Meeting Sparks Further Consideration of Vehicle Restrictions on Hwy 138**

**CRESTLINE – Sept. 27, 2011** –Caltrans officials plan to reevaluate options for possible vehicle restrictions on a winding, narrow portion of Highway 138 following discussions that took place at the Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22.

“The MAC is always a terrific forum for residents to express their opinions about issues that affect their community, and the Caltrans heard residents loud and clear at last week’s meeting,” San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said.

During the meeting, Caltrans District 8 Director Ray Wolfe provided MAC members and residents in attendance with an update on Caltrans’ evaluations of possible vehicle restrictions on Highway 138 between Silverwood Lake and Crestline.

“We listened to representatives of the community express concerns about how vehicle restrictions would affect a possible scenic highway designation, recreational access to Lake Silverwood from Crestline, and local business operations,” Wolfe said. “We are now considering the viability of an intermediate level of highway improvements designed to reduce impacts to the community. Restrictions will still be necessary, but not to the level currently proposed.”

Residents concerned about large trucks blocking the highway during a fire evacuation prompted Caltrans to assess whether to implement enforceable vehicle restrictions on Highway 138. Currently, there are signs advising drivers of large vehicles such as tractor trailers with lengths exceeding 30 feet from kingpin to rear axle to avoid using the road.

Residents at the MAC meeting were divided on whether Caltrans should implement enforceable vehicle restrictions on Highway 138. Some said large vehicles are a safety hazard while others argued restrictions could impact businesses by forcing delivery trucks and others to use Highway 18 to access the Crestline communities, which would add more than 30 miles to the trip.

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# **PRESS ADVISORY**

## *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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### **City of Fontana and County of San Bernardino Partner on Road Improvements**

**SAN BERNARDINO – Sept. 27, 2011** – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved two cooperative agreements with the City of Fontana on Tuesday to repave and repair two roadways that traverse both County and City areas.

“The County of San Bernardino and City of Fontana share responsibility for a number of roads because of the substantial amount of unincorporated area within the City’s sphere of influence, and by working together, we can deliver the most comprehensive road improvements to benefit our residents and businesses,” Rutherford said.

The first agreement calls the County and City to contribute \$798,249 and \$148,665 respectively to pay for repaving Calabash Avenue between Whittram Avenue and Foothill Boulevard. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2012.

The second agreement requires the County and City to contribute \$230,178 and \$30,443 respectively toward the cost of slurry sealing the pavement on Randall Avenue between Cherry Avenue and Popular Avenue and between Cherry Avenue and Catawba Avenue. The work is scheduled to begin in late October.

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# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
[www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov)



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
**AT YOUR SERVICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2011

For more information, contact  
David Wert, Public Information Officer  
(909) 387-4717  
[dwert@sbcounty.gov](mailto:dwert@sbcounty.gov)

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## Board meeting videoconferencing begins on Tuesday

Starting on Tuesday, being in Victorville will be the next best thing to being in San Bernardino for those interested in participating in Board of Supervisors meetings.

A videoconferencing system linking a meeting room in Victorville to the Board of Supervisors chambers in San Bernardino will go live for the board's September 13 meeting, allowing public testimony from a remote location for the first time in county history. The system will also operate during a special redistricting session at noon on Sept. 16, and during subsequent board meetings.

"As America's largest county, it makes sense to create an opportunity for residents to take part in board meetings without having to drive such long distances and cross mountains," said Board of Supervisors Chair Josie Gonzales.

The videoconferencing effort is a one-year pilot program. One year from now, the county will evaluate the effectiveness of the program and determine whether to continue or expand it.

"This is a great opportunity for High Desert residents to participate in Board of Supervisors meetings without having to drive down the Cajon Pass to San Bernardino," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the High Desert. "A vibrant, healthy democracy requires that elected officials listen to our constituents and this pilot program will make it more convenient for residents to make their voices heard."

The location for the videoconferencing will be the County Transitional Assistance Department building, 15010 Palmdale Road, Conference Room A/B, in Victorville. The room may be accessed through the outer door west of the main lobby entrance on the front of the building.

**-MORE-**

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"Getting the public engaged with their County government has always been a goal of mine. In 2006, I launched an effort to make board meetings more accessible by holding them in Chino and Victorville," said Supervisor Gary Ovitt, who began preparations for the videoconferencing pilot program when he served as board chairman in 2009 and 2010.

"The ability to use this video conference equipment is a natural progression from that initial push for greater inclusion of the public. This is a cheaper and more efficient way to make Board meetings open to residents in the High Desert," Supervisor Ovitt said.

The meeting on Tuesday will begin at 10 a.m. Staff from the Clerk of the Board's Office will be on hand to assist the public.

People who plan to participate in meetings from the Victorville location who also want to submit documents for the board's consideration must submit them to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130, no later than 5 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting or hearing. Any documentation submitted at the Victorville site shall become part of the official record for the matter, but will not be disseminated to the Board prior to the Board's action.

Videoconferencing from the Victorville location may be canceled due to inclement weather or technical difficulties. If the site is closed due to inclement weather, a notice will be posted by 9 a.m. the day of the Board meeting.

Board meetings can also be viewed live on the Internet at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/main/countyvision.asp>. Past meetings can also be viewed at this site.





## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**Solid Waste Management Division**  
222 West Hospitality Lane, Second Floor  
San Bernardino CA 92415-0017  
(909) 386-8701 Fax (909) 386-8964



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 3, 2011

Contact: Rex Richardson, Media Specialist  
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### **Fall Community Clean-up & Recycling Day**

San Bernardino County officials would like to remind residents that this spring's Community Clean-up & Recycling Day is Saturday, October 22, 2011. County residents can dispose and recycle regular household trash and debris at no charge at all County-owned landfills and larger transfer stations normally open on Saturdays. Sites are:

#### **San Bernardino Valley Area**

##### **Mid-Valley Landfill**

2390 N. Alder Avenue, Rialto  
7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday

##### **San Timoteo Landfill**

31 Refuse Road, Redlands  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Saturday

#### **High Desert Area**

##### **Barstow Landfill**

32553 Barstow Road, Barstow  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Saturday

#### **Phelan (Sheep Creek) Transfer Station**

10130 Buckwheat Road, Phelan  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Saturday



**Victorville Landfill**

18600 Stoddard Wells Road, Victorville  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Sunday

**Mountain Area****Big Bear Transfer Station**

38550 Holcomb Valley Road, Big Bear  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday

**Heaps Peak Transfer Station**

29898 Hwy 18 at Heaps Peak, Running Springs  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday

**East Desert Area****Landers Landfill**

59200 Winters Road, Landers  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday

**29 Palms Transfer Station**

7501 Pinto Mountain Road, 29 Palms  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday

Free loads are limited to private vehicles up to standard pickups or trailers up to 20 feet long. Proof of residency will be required. Commercial vehicles, hard-to-handle, tires and special wastes will be charged at their regular rates. Waste from residential clean up only. All loads must be properly covered and secured. Loads failing to meet these requirements will be charged.

This semi-annual event also serves to remind residents to recycle as much as possible, thereby reducing the amount of material they have to take to landfills. County solid waste disposal sites offer drop-off bins for a variety of recyclables, such as glass, plastic, cardboard, wood/green waste and metal.

For a complete listing of all County solid waste disposal sites and their hours of operation, rates, or more recycling and waste reduction ideas, please call 800-722-8004 or log onto: [www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste)

Unincorporated residents subscribing to residential trash service are reminded their trash hauler will pick up bulky items (including TVs & monitors, sofas, etc.) twice a year at no charge as part of their service. Customers are encouraged to use this hauler provided service rather than waiting in line at the landfill on Clean-up Day. Please call your trash hauler for program details and to arrange for pick up.

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